

II

RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1969.



R A M S E Y U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AS AT

31.12.69

Chairman Mr. E.H.C. Jones

E. Bridgestock	K. Clements
W.F.Churchman	A.S. Cross
H.W.Haddon	Mrs. E.M. Hertzog
J.R. Major	Miss. C.M. Riddy
J. Pickard	E.F. Slote
A. Smith	

STAFF:

P.V. CANT, M.B.,Ch.B, D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.
HAROLD G. BELL. M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twelfth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar General as unchanged since 1968, and to be 5,620.

There were 71 live births during the year, this being 3 less than in 1968. The crude birth rate was 12.6 per 1,000 of the population, and the adjusted rate was 12.5. This is low when compared to the rate of 16.3 for England and Wales. Seven per cent of the births were illegitimate, as against eight per cent for England and Wales.

Two infants aged under twelve months died during the year, and there was one still-birth. As the number of births are small this makes the infant death rates high this year, but over the previous five years these rates had been very good.

There were 62 deaths during the year, 35 males and 27 females. The crude rate was 11 and the adjusted rate 11.9 per 1,000 of the population, which corresponds exactly with the national rate.

Sixty six cases of Measles occurred during the year, but apart from this there was very little infectious disease. No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, neither did anyone die of Tuberculosis.

The sewerage scheme for Mereside and Forty Foot was under construction throughout the year. When all four of the outlying villages are sewered the number of pail closets in the area will decrease rapidly. Good mention has recently been made by the Gt. Ouse River Authority of the quality of the effluent from the sewage works. Now that the scheme for sewerage the adjoining village of Bury has been completed the two Councils are able to implement the agreement made between them and we are now accepting for treatment the sewage from Bury.

The water supply throughout the District is satisfactory, but contains less than 0.2 parts per million of fluoride. This District is agreeable to fluoridation of its water supply, but we are awaiting negotiations between the Cambridge Water Company and other bodies before more can be done in the matter. There are no standpipes in the area, and there are only about five houses in the District which do not receive mains water.

I am most grateful to the Members of the Council, and their Officers and Staff for all the help which they have given me during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	5,620
Density of Persons per acre	...	...	...	...	...	0.34
Number of inhabited Houses as at 1.4.69.	...	...	...	...	...	1,988
Rateable Value, March 31st 1969...	...	...	...	...	...	£180,396
Value of Penny Rate 68/69	...	...	...	...	...	£708

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.6
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Infant deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infant Mortality Rates									
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Perinatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)									
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Deaths from Cancer (total)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cancer of lung or bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(m) 1
Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no new cases or deaths from Tuberculosis during 1969, therefore I have not printed the tables this year.



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Table showing Infant Deaths and the Mortality Rate
Over Six Years

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Actual Number of Deaths	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1	2
Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Nil	9.6	Nil	Nil	14	28

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births		Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Ramsey U.D.	12.6	12.5	11	11.9	28	14
England and Wales	-	16.3	-	11.9	18	13

Comparability Factor Births 0.99

Comparability Factor Deaths 1.08

The comparability factors are figures by which the crude birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country. The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning amongst other things the age and sex structure of the population.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

<u>Causes of Death</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other endocrine etc. diseases	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
Anaemias	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...	9	5	14
Other forms of heart disease	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	...	...	5	7	12
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
Congenital anomalies	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES					<u>35</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>62</u>

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1969.

DISEASE	TOTAL	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and upwards	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
SMALLPOX	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SCARLET FEVER	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DIPHTHERIA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MEASLES	66	2	6	8	8	10	30	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WHOOPING COUGH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
JAUNDICE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DYSENTERY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
POLIOMYELITIS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
FOOD POISONING	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PARA-TYPHOID	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ACUTE MENINGITIS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Philip V. Cant.

Medical Officer of Health.

Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough, PE2 8RB.
Phone : Peterborough 68010.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED31st DECEMBER, 1969TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

Housing:

One statutory notice was served to secure the repair of a dwelling house. Repairs to other dwellings were secured by informal action.

Mill House Old Peoples flatlets are now occupied and the tenants seem satisfied with the facilities provided. Single persons and old couples still make up approximately one third of the applicants on the Housing Waiting List and the need for one bedroomed accommodation is self evident.

10 unfit cottages were vacated during the year.

13 cottages were demolished during the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	137
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	7
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	18
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	39

Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

[illegible]

New Housing :

There were 128 active applicants on the list for Council houses at the end of the year, 39 of these requiring one bedroom or single person's accommodation. 34 Families were rehoused during the year.

26 houses were erected by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants :

5 applications for Standard Grants were received during the year.

6 Standard Grant works of improvement were carried out during the year.

5 Discretionary Grants were paid during the year.

The 28 Council houses without bathrooms, W.C.'s and drainage facilities were completed during the year. There are still about 60 Council houses where improvements are required and will be carried out as and when the villages are sewered.

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Analysis of complaints received :-							
Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Accumulation	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overflowing Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Inspections and Visits :

Housing Waiting List	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	390
Factory Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Water Supply and Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Council Houses (Inspections, welfare and repairs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	410
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total									<u>1,603</u>

Closets :

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	...	...	...	1821
Number of houses at the end of the year with pail closets	...	..		172
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses	...	...	...	26
Number of W.C.'s constructed for old houses	...	...	...	37

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

26 new drainage systems were installed and tested during the year.
37 alterations to existing systems were also listed.

The Council give a free cesspool/septic tank emptying service where necessary. 203 cesspools/septic tanks being emptied in 1969.

At the end of the year there were still 165 pail closets emptied twice weekly by a Contractor. A further 7 remote cottages have pail closets emptied by the occupiers.

The Council have agreed to close and ultimately demolish the 8 Council houses which are not worth improving and laying outside the proposed sewerage scheme at Ramsey St. Mary's.

The sewerage scheme for Mereside and Forty Foot is proceeding and is hoped to be operational by April, 1970. Once this is completed, works of improvement will be necessary to the pre-war Council houses.

Water Supply :

31 Water Samples were taken from dwelling house cold water taps and taken to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough Hospital. One sample had a coliform count of 4 on MacConky 2 days 37°C. with no B. Coli Type 1. The remainder were satisfactory. The Water Company replaced stop cock washers and flushed the service pipe to the house giving the suspicious result, and further tests by the Water Company and ourselves proved satisfactory.

Swimming Baths :

The year proved to be a very unsatisfactory one as one school pool was never used during the year and the large outdoor pool at the Secondary Modern School was only used for about two months at the early part of the Summer due to work starting to cover the pool with a glass fibre dome. St. Mary's Junior School was used all through the season and was provided with changing room adjacent to the outdoor pool by the Parent-teachers association. 4 satisfactory samples were taken, two from the Secondary Modern School and two from Ramsey St. Mary's C.P. School. 2 unsatisfactory results were also obtained, one from each pool, but one was due to a breakdown in the chlorination plant and the other was taken after roofing operations had commenced.

Meat and Food Inspection :

There are no slaughter-houses in the district.

Unfit food is condemned following notification by the shopkeeper or during routine inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Three refrigeration breakdowns during the year resulted in a considerable quantity of frozen foodstuffs having to be condemned.

Food Premises :

1. The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as follows :-

Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
School Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
							<u>47</u>

All food premises comply with Regulation 16 and are fitted to comply with Regulation 19.

2. Number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act. ... 35
3. Number of inspections of registered food premises ... 41
4. One complaint of a mouldy cream cake was investigated and proceedings against the shop-keeper concerned resulted in a £5 fine being imposed by the Magistrates.

All food premises were visited at least once during the year. Notices requesting customers not to bring dogs into food shops were distributed during the year.

Premises provided with additional protective screens	...	...	1
Premises provided with additional dustbins	...	...	4
Premises repaired (floors, walls, ceilings)	...	...	7
Premises redecorated	...	...	6

Condemned foodstuffs are burned at the Refuse Tip.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

There are no poultry processing premises in the area.

Factories Act 1961 :

Total number of factories (including bakehouses)...	...	26
Number of visits during the year	...	13
Number of defects remedied	...	1

Refuse Collection and Disposal :

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, two loader/drivers and a loader provide a weekly back door collection in the town and a weekly kerbside collection in the villages. The 35 cubic yard Bedford/Eagle refuse vehicle enables the present crew to cope with the rounds easily, and the crew are able to accommodate the new dwellinghouses that are being occupied.

Refuse disposal is at Ramsey Heights Tip and no complaints were received during the year from nearby householders.

Rodent Control :

Rentokil have continued to do treatments to dwelling houses on complaint and Council properties by regular servicing. A rapid increase in dwelling house infestation occurred during the early winter probably due to the early harvest which contrasted appreciably to the past two years.

A 10% test baiting of the sewer system showed slight infestation (5 partial takes). A fluoroacetamide treatment was carried out to 25 manholes.

Rentokil have several farm contracts in the district and another contracting firm treats Ramsey Estates. Where infestations have been reported or noticed, informal action was all that was needed to have the necessary treatments carried out. No evidence of warfarin resistance in rats or mice was noticed.

The following table shows the inspections and treatments carried out:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	1984	331
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	123	6
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	70	6
(ii) Mice	6	-
3.(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and / or mice for reasons other than notification	18	4
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	6	1
(ii) Mice	-	-

Sewers

25 manholes were treated with fluoroacetamide following 5 partial takes on the test baiting of the sewers.

General :

The improving of the Council houses at St. Mary's, outside the proposed sewerage scheme and the gradual improvement of cottages in the villages is gradually reducing the number of Pail Closets. This reduction will increase rapidly over the next two or three years as the four villages become sewered.

Appreciation is expressed of the interest and support of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee, Members of the Council, the guidance of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

Harold G. Bell.

Public Health Inspector.

